

Descriptive (A) account xxx

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Descriptive Account

... OF THE ...

REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

+++ CENTRAL AMERICA —

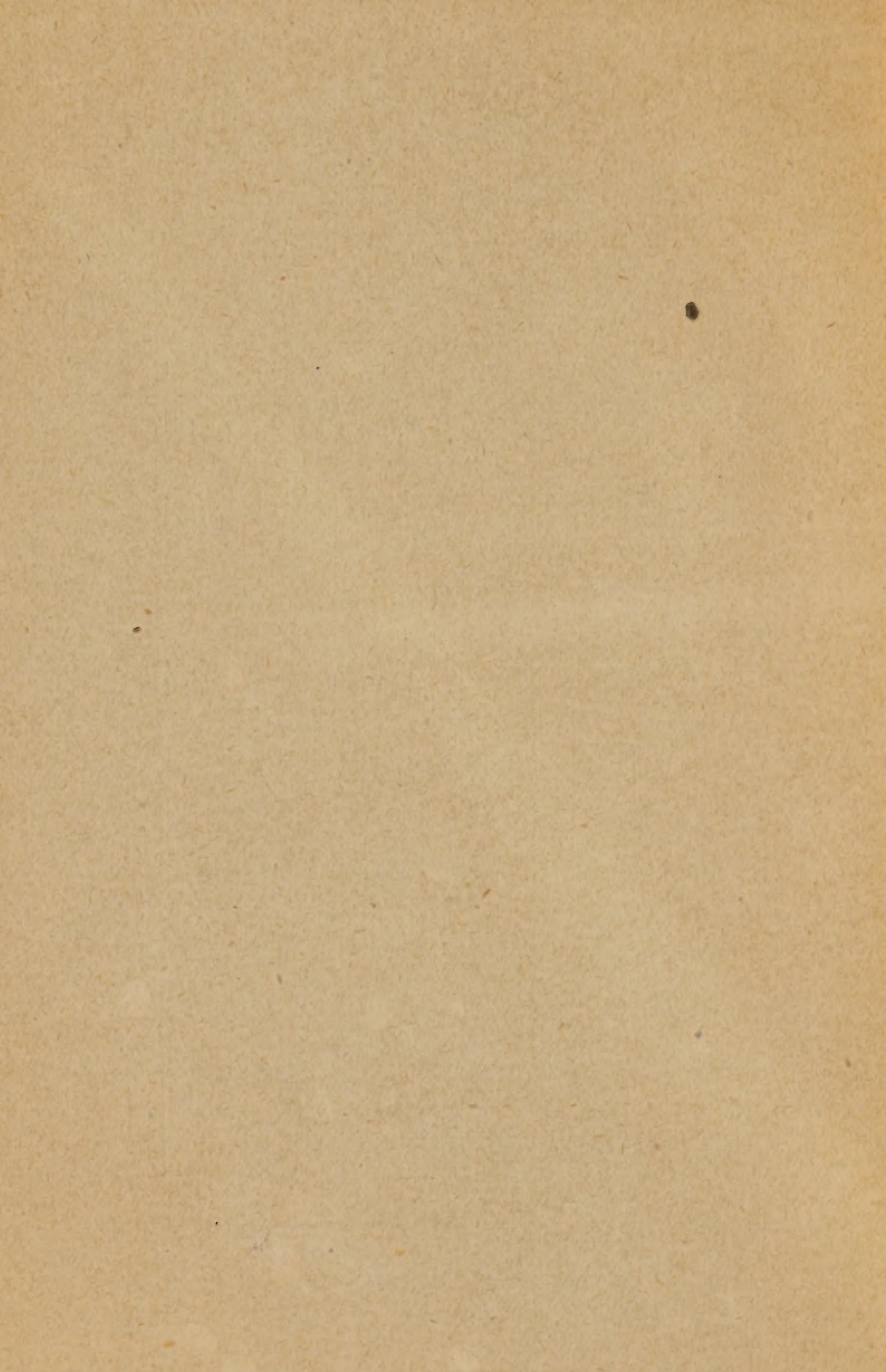
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CHICAGO, ILL.

Press of the COURRIER DE CHICAGO, Pontiac Bldg., Rooms 1001-1002.

1893.





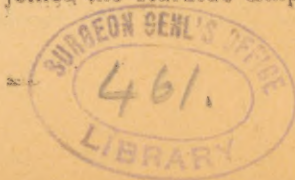
DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT
OF THE
GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL AND
OTHER INSTITUTIONS
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA,
CENTRAL AMERICA.

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Central America comprises the territory between the Republics of Mexico and the United States of Colombia, extending over one thousand miles from S. E. to N.W. Its greatest width from the Pacific to the Atlantic is four hundred miles. Central America is comprised within the 8° and $17^{\circ} 49'$ North latitude, and $81^{\circ} 35'$ and $92^{\circ} 30'$ West longitude of the meridian of Greenwich. Its superficial area is about 170,900 square miles and it has a population of a little over 3,200,000.

The old Captain Generalship under the dominion of Spain comprised all of Central America, besides the state of Chiapas and the Soconusco district, which now belong to Mexico.

After the realization of independence in 1821, Central America, for a short time, joined the Iturbide Empire.



Upon the fall of the Empire, and separated from Mexico, it organized itself into a confederation, and adopted a political code in 1824.—The interior strifes of each State and between the states themselves, caused a rupture of the federal compact, and from 1839 they commenced organizing into independent Republics, as follows: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Salvador and Guatemala.

GUATEMALA.

Guatemala is the most northern of the five Republics composing Central America, extending from the $13^{\circ} 42'$ and $17^{\circ} 49'$ North latitude to the $88^{\circ} 10'$ and $92^{\circ} 30'$ West longitude of the meridian of Greenwich. It has an area of 50,600 square miles, bounded by the Republics of Mexico, Honduras, Salvador and the two oceans.

The capital, New Guatemala, is situated on the $14^{\circ} 37'$ and $32''$ North latitude and $90^{\circ} 30'$ and $41'$ longitude, and is at an elevation of 1480 metres above the sea level.

The territory now included in Guatemala was discovered by Pedro de Alvarado, who was commissioned by Hernán Cortéz, conqueror of Mexico. The indigenous people found by Alvarado were known as the Quichés, Cakchiqueles, Zutuhiles, Pocomames, Mames, Lacandones and others of lesser note. The three first named were systematically organized, and offered stronger resistance. When the African race was brought into the country as slaves, it made little or no impression on the mass of the people in the northern part, although they mixed more freely with them than in the South. This was due to the scarcity of their numbers.

The Indians neither lacked of the intelligence to conduct their affairs, nor the valor to protect their rights. The natives not having had any share in the political life of the country from the time of the conquest, nor having taken any part in the higher intellectual affairs, had gradually fallen back into a state of indifference, leaving them only sufficient energy to conduct their private affairs, and most ordinary matters of trade and barter.

Although they spoke different languages, these appeared to the stranger as only one; though differing in their customs manners and tastes.

Physical Aspect.

The country in general is of a mountainous character, but, near the coast as well as in the interior, are found salubrious and fertile plains. The climate is as diversified as the physical aspect of the country: hot on the coast and low-lands, mild at an elevation of say from one to two thousand metres and changing more noticeably as the height increases.

Like all countries in the torrid zone, the year is divided into two seasons: wet and dry; but on the Northern coast, on account of the north winds, the wet season comes earlier and is prolonged later, there being some localities where there are but two or three months of dry weather during the year. In other parts of the country however, the rainy season begins in May and ends in October. On account of their topographical features, there are certain districts, where it seldom rains; but in others, it is abundant. In higher altitudes, the average rain-fall varies between one metre ten centimetres and one metre forty centimetres, but on the coast it is some years, as high as three metres.

The aspect of the country is exceedingly picturesque, nature being very liberal with her gifts: delightful valleys with a most luxurious vegetation, rivers bordered with a most beautiful flora, and lakes no less charming for their changing contours and their beautiful situations than those, so much praised by distinguished travelers.

Flora and Fauna of Guatemala,

An infinite variety of vegetables is produced in the forests, gratifying to the eyes and useful in industry and science. In all the different temperatures and altitudes we find a great abundance of woods; the principal ones, in a collection of more than a hundred and fifty different classes, are ebony, jocote, walnut, pine, chestnut, oak, rose-wood, mahogany, cedar, mulberry, lemon-tree, laurel, storax, sapota-tree, rouron, cypress, etc.; amongst the dye-woods there are the mulberry-heart, nacascal campeche, brazil-wood, madder, mixco, alum, etc. Medicinal plants and barks are no less numerous. In many regions we find the rhubarb, cassia-fistularis, ipecacuanha tamarind, sarsaparrilla and balsam.

The variety and richness of the fauna are in close keeping with those of the flora. The woods of Guatemala are the cradle of the micoleon, the badger, the otter, the coyote or wild dog, the tiger, the marine-cat, the tapir, the wild boar, the deer, and the wild goat. Ferocious animals are scarce, and even those that are so by nature and instinct, do not show here such savageness as in other countries. A proof of this assertion is the reduced number of accidents that happen in the country, on this account, although the natives take few or no precautions to avoid them.

But it is with the stationary and indigenous birds that nature here displays all her luxuriance, there being

no less than six hundred different species, some of which like the quetzal, the macaw, and the parrot, possess rich colors and beautiful combinations of plumage; others are fine singers, as the guarda and the chorchá, a good many others presenting rich food for the people. As to the domestic birds, all those imported from Europe have been successfully reared.

The wonderful fertility, which in every sense of the word is found in the woods and forests, the mountains and plains, and in the plants, shrubs and trees as well as in the flowers of all kinds, forms and colors, impart here to nature an indiscrible amount of animation and vitality. All the varieties of the fauna of the torrid, and many of the temperate zones: all the prismatic colors of the vast multitudes of birds and insects, all the melodies heard at night time, leaving aside the mutterings of the torrents and water-falls, which at the opening of the day, harmonize with thousands of thrills and the happy gambols of so many beings, passing from slumber to activity, contribute here to the happiness of the inhabitants.

Minerals

We have abundant proofs that the soil of Guatemala is rich in minerals, but the people have taken no particular pains to work the mines. An additional reason for this negligence being found in the heretofore difficult means of communication. We find gold and silver washings, veins, iron, lead and coal mines, marble quarries, pumice-stone, sulphur, talc, copper, obsidian and conglomerates.

The great facility to earn the means of living and especially, the scantiness of population, hardly sufficient at present to develop the agricultural and other pursuits already initiated, have been the cause that mining

undertakings have not figured, up to the present, as an important source to the national wealth. To these causes we may add to some extent the distance to the mining centres, and the deficiency in our system of roads.

Volcanoes.

A line of volcanic peaks running almost parallel with the coast of the Pacific Ocean, extends from the frontier of the neighbouring State of Salvador, up to that of Mexico. In some places we find traces of great geological revolutions, the conglomeration of enormous rocks as if thrown there by violent eruptions, the depression of lands where mountains existed, and where now lakes, surrounded by colossal walls, have been formed.

The etappes and heights of the cordillera seen from the ocean, present one of the most beautiful and majestic sceneries, to the admirers of nature: an immense verdant covering sprinkled with more than thirty snow-capped volcanoes, many of such regularity in forms, as if they had been chiseled according to some geometrical prototype. The following are the highest:

The peak of Tajumulco, at an elevation of 4,390 metres above the level of the sea.

The peak of Tacaná at 4,190 metres.

The peak of Acatenango, at 3,906 metres.

The Fire peak at 3,740.

The Water peak 3,690.

The most perfect in form is the volcano Santa Maria.

The Acatenango and the Fire volcanoes are united as if they were twins, rising amongst the whole system.

The misnamed Water volcano which is detached and isolated from the others, with its immense volume and fertile basis, owes its name to the overflow of the

water deposited at its summit, having caused by the amundation of its western side, the ruin of the primitive city of Santiago de los Cabelleros, founded by Don Pedro de Alvarado.

The Fire volcano has had several eruptions, but without causing any great damage. Nearly all the others are now extinct.

Lakes and Rivers.

The principal lakes of the country are those of Isabal, el Peten or Flores, Tezacualpa, Ayarza, Atitlan, Amatitlan and Giuja.

The lake of Isabal is 90 kilometres long by 20 in width.

The Peten lake is 48 kilometres long by 10 wide.

The Atitlan lake is 29 kilometres by eleven.

The Ayarza is 12 by 12.

Amatitlan is 12 by 4.

The Tezacualpa is 12 by 11.

The Giuja lake constitutes the limit between Guatemala and Salvador, the bordering line running in its centre, from North to South.

None of the lakes present such beautiful and diversified scenery as that of Atitlan. A line of volcanoes borders its southern portion, and alongside of all its limits there are mountains of such varied heights and forms that they resemble gigantic human monuments. It is crossed by numerous rivers and torrents which have no other drainage or outlet than by infiltration in the southern portion. From all the points of any elevation above the lake of Atetlan different scenes are presented: views of prodigious effects, and tableaux that inspire enthusiasm and contemplation. Stretching out in the form of an immense cross, being at a considerable altitude and surrounded by abrupt moun-

tains, it is embellished all around by fourteen villages inhabited by vigorous Indians, a race who preserve all their activity and strength ; but as soon as the rapid ascension is made by the road leading to the south, we begin to descend, looking toward the coast. The aspect of all the surroundings is rapidly changed; the woods become thicker, the noise of the springs and the gay singing of the birds form a contrast to the heavy contours of the lake, and the severe lines of the circle of mountains appear from some places like a gigantic Coliseum, and from others like a museum of innumerable pyramids and inaccessible pagodas, or like titanic fortresses.

In this Atitlan lake, fish do not propagate, although great pains have been taken to establish fisheries there. It is not known if this is on account of the quality of the water, of under currents, or of some other unknown causes. All the environments of the lake denote that, in an unknown period, there have been there revolutions which have transformed the whole configuration of those places.

The most important rivers of Guatemala are the Motagua, the Polochic, Sarstoon, Lecandon, Pasion, San Pedro and the Usumacinta, flowing into the Atlantic; and the Paz, Esclavas, Michatoya, Guacalate, Coyalate, Samala, Tilapa, Nacanja and Ocos, flowing into the Pacific.

The Passion river, which a little below its source takes the name of Usumacinta, is navigable by steamboats drawing very little water for about 120 leagues, and were it not for its rapids, might be canalized for an equal distance. The Chixy, an affluent of the Usumacinta is navigable from near the Coban. Navigation could easily be carried on in the Motagua by steamboats of little drawing for a distance of say 40 leagues from its mouth. The Polochic is also navigable from lake Isabal, into which it

flows, up to Panzos, a distance of, say, 10 leagues, and even for another ten additional leagues by cleaning its channel. The rivers flowing into the Pacific only carry sufficient water on the lower or southern coast, and a few like the Paz, the Ocos, the Naranjo, the Samala and others might be made navigable for a few leagues.

Seaports.

In the Atlantic the ports of Guatemala are: Izabal, Santo Tomas, Puerto-Barrios and Livingston; the first named, situated on the coast of the lake of its name, cannot be reached by large vessels on account of the bar at the mouth of Rio Dulce, through which it flows into the sea. The port of Santo-Tomas, the best in Guatemala, and one of the best in all Central America, is well sheltered, and has a depth sufficient to allow the approach of deep-draught vessels. The other two ports on the Atlantic are inferior to Santo-Tomas. On the Pacific coast there are no real ports, but the harbors allow their formation, and there are several places which may serve as a port. There are at present the ports of San Jose, Champerico and Ocos. Some time ago Tejocote was utilized as such, and, even now vessels embark and disembark there, but with more difficulty than by the three others. Gualan, on the Motagua, and Panzos, on the Polochic are river ports.

Medicinal Baths.

In several places, but on the Pacific coast especially, there are medicinal fountains of hot, tepid, ferruginous, sulphurous and saline waters.

Some are found in Escuintla, on the side of the volcanoes, and in several of the interior departments; but no

general and careful study has been made of them, except in certain places, thickly inhabited or frequently visited by travelers. The physical aspect of the country, mountainous and volcanic as it is, shows of itself that there exists waters of all kinds, suitable for all purposes.

Social Condition.

According to the census of 1892 the population was composed of 1,510,326 Guatemaleans. They are divided into two different groups, the Ladinos and the Indians, the former being the descendants of the white race, and of a mixture of European and Indians. There are several other subdivisions which cannot easily be described, as they are not a very distinct group, coming from a mixture of Indian and black, or white and black, and the progeny of these two races.

By the very nature of the conquest, the crossing of the Europeans and Indians was rapidly accomplished; and, although the bulk of the latter did not interfere in a direct way in the administrative organization in politics, nor in scientific pursuits, some individualities which excelled amongst them and likewise all those who met with propitious circumstances, entered actively into the body politic, even where the indigenous type predominated. This condition of affairs has been followed ever since.

The mixture of the European races with the indigenous has certainly not brought about the lowering of mental faculties, nor intellectual or moral debility; but the indifference and seclusiveness, and the almost mechanical habits of the Indians, who, notwithstanding all the changes, vicissitudes and political revolutions, have stood apart, projected a shadow that could not but exercise its influence on the balance of the inhabitants of the country, as they (the Indians) formed the larger portion of the in-

habitants. This influence is now being neutralized by social energy, by means of travel, by the inducements offered by the present age, by intercommunication, and partly also by immigration of Europeans and Americans. Although not being so numerous, energetic and industrious foreign colonies are rapidly increasing in the country, their principal vocations being commerce, agriculture and business of all kinds.

Out of the total number of natives more than two-thirds are Indians, who, in some districts, especially in those nearest the centres of population, have undergone changes by the crossing of the races in different degrees.

Although strenuous efforts have been made to form an accurate census, we could not venture to say that it has been obtained, as the suspiciousness of the Indians places difficulties and, at times, unsurmountable obstacles in the way of the officers in charge.

The prepondering race possesses all the aptitude necessary to acquire science, the arts and industries, and are not foreign to the ways that form modern culture. In all the different branches of knowledge they reveal education, and taste for arts, and in many instances an extraordinary facility for skillful labor. Refinement, good manners and sound practical sense place Guatemala amongst the most cultured countries of the new world. All the books, publications, fashions, and other educational resources of European civilization reach the country rapidly. Public wealth is daily increasing, and there is an untiring effort to realize all the improvements that the age requires.

Their habits are generally temperate, their necessities few and the climate such, that it is easy for them to obtain life's sustenance. Good faith is the predominant point in business transactions, there being but few cases of deliberate failure or swindle. Wealth inspires respect and

no individual or party wishes to change the actual state of affairs. Capital and labor disputes which agitate other countries do not exist there; neither do ill feelings or spite form a feature of the inhabitants. Property can be easily acquired and by perseverance in the different branches of agriculture, industry, etc., etc., one is sure of success.

Although, as civilization advances, vices have been brought into the country, still confidence and safety on the highways and in the cities have not disappeared, and only in time of political disturbances have travelers been molested; but in most cases, this has been done by either foreign adventurers or by fugitives from justice.

Immigration has been sought after for many years; but it has been impossible to appropriate the necessary fund for the accomplishment of this end, or the establishment of interior services, such as the present age demands. Nevertheless, foreign immigration is constantly coming in and it generally meets with success in its different pursuits.

The Indians do not advance as rapidly as the whites or Ladinos. They are principally engaged in farming and in small commercial enterprises in the interior, earning with ease their livelihood, avoiding all possible over-work, following their daily passive routine and generally without showing any desire to be mixed into the general movements of the country.

The efforts of the government to instill into the Indians new customs, showing them new paths to success, have been met with but little reward, due to their systematic ways and unchangeable proclivities and ideas.

This condition of affairs does not exist amongst the entire Indian population. Those who have been thrown in direct contact with active society develop an aston-

ishing amount of energy which is not noted at a superficial examination of the race; this activity and intelligence is more remarkable amongst the women. Still there weighs upon the race certain natural habits which have a tendency to separate them from what is not their centre or is not in accordance with their peculiar traditions.

The natives of the high and cold regions are more vigorous, wide awake and intelligent. The race is kind hearted, respectful and simple. They are harmless unless provoked, living regardless of the future in homogeneous groups, without any preoccupations and preserving their dialects and customs intact.

The Ladinos and Indians are two distinct classes; the former march ahead with hope and energy through the paths which have been laid out by progress; the latter, immovable, do not take any part in the political and intellectual life, adhering tenaciously to their old habits and customs. The Indians do not cooperate actively in the progress of civilization, neither do they resist it. Notwithstanding, they furnish all the necessary work to make the soil productive, and this alone creates the national wealth.

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Natural richness of the country.

Without any boast whatsoever, Guatemala is one of the most productive and most endowed countries by nature, and possesses immense conditions to stimulate enterprise.

The facts we have heretofore referred to, and Guatemala having so long remained isolated from the outward world, being thus unable to avail itself of the trade now carried on the Atlantic, and finally, society having failed to instill in the minds of the Indians any ambition whatever to cooperate in the development of the resources of the commonwealth, a consequence of their few and easily covered wants, have retarded its progress, and prevented also a conscientious study of the means we should have adopted in order to avail ourselves of our extensive and varied elements.

The North and South seas produce an immense quantity of fish and moluscs of different classes. Fish are also found in the majority of the lakes and deep rivers. Game exists in abundance on the plains and mountains; timber of superior quality and of all kinds is to be found in the inexhaustible forests of the North, South and West; fruits of the best kinds, such as pine, apple, anona, ingerto, zapote, guanaba, jocote and thousands of others can be found and are produced without cultivation or attention, as also oranges, lemons, bananas, aguacate, fig bananas, el nancy, and the palm. Medicinal shrubs, barks, rattans and textile fibres which some day, will give to industry a valuable trade are also found. Mines of gold, zinc, copper, iron, silver, quick silver, coal, antimony, silica, marble, mica, talc and other minerals and salts also exist.

There are other elements which some day will be the means of industries and sound speculations, such as the different colored birds, insects and flowers, the forests, rivers, small lakes and springs, all of which form a most recreative sight. Guatemala, therefore, has on its soil all the attractiveness requisite for those who are anxious to better their condition.

During the search for a passage between the two oceans, Guatemala was the metropolis of the Capitanía General of Central America, until the discoveries of rich and abundant mines in Perú and Mexico drew attention towards them; afterwards this region was considered a country of less importance, and the wars inflicted by the pirates, which caused so much damage to the Spanish Colonies, obliged them to locate far away from the dangers, against which there was no advantage to be derived by fighting. Besides, the native population, no matter as to what extent its assistance was necessary to the governing race, formed its establishments in the south, and took no active interest in society.

As soon as Central America obtained its independence, Guatemala in particular carried on all of her principal business by the Pacific. Central America being small in comparison with Mexico, Perú, the Argentine Republic, Colombia and Brazil, the attention of diplomats and foreign economists was naturally drawn towards these countries. The United States of North America, whose immense resources attracted the general attention through the Press and invited immigration, seldom mentioned other countries where hospitality, prosperity and riches could be found by the surplus population or tradesmen of the Old World.

The great republic of the North having been populated to a certain extent, emulation opened the ports of the Republics of the Argentine, Peru, Chile and Uruguay

to the European immigrants, whose instincts, made them look for temperate climes which were more in accordance with those of their own country.

The exchange with the exterior, not only of our ideas but also of our goods was limited indeed; and the scantiness of the intelligent population, compelled us to devote all our attention to cover our immediate wants.

These countries were not properly known until lately, when historians and geographers began to study them seriously. Works which were published here and writings sent to the press, were looked upon in Europe as fictitious. Even today, people of high rank and education do not know that Guatemala, during the hottest months of summer of our Western hemisphere, in the days of the solstice, enjoys a temperature equal to that of Spring in Paris and Vienna, during the month of May. This is not only confined to one place, but is extended to a section of at least 2000 square leagues, where all the fruits of a temperate zone are grown.

The causes which determine the ease of sustenance, the disproportion between nature rich and abundant, and the labor applied, makes it impossible to turn ones energies to the undertaking of many things at once.

The people have purely devoted their attention to agriculture, mineral pursuits, and such industries which with by small efforts produce large results. The forests and mines are of great wealth; but the greatest resource of the country is in its soil, which in all sections of the country is excessively productive; so much so in fact, that certain districts are so rich that for ages to come they cannot be rendered unproductive. Such is the composition of the agricultural districts, valleys and plains, that some of them are constantly irrigated by floods from the high mountains. There are also extensive territories in which no manure is necessary, and their cultivation can be carried on without any doubt as to the result.

Native Products.

One of the most remarkable advantages which the territory of the Republic offers, consists in the different elevations, the form and inclination of the plains, the varied climates, and a succession of favorable conditions which not only allow the raising of fruits of the torrid zone, but also those of the temperate. In the same manner as domestic animals have been acclimated, trees, plants, flowers and shrubs have also been.

One can also find in the valleys of the Antigua Guatemala and in the higher lands, peaches, piums, cherries, pears, apples, and other fruits, which, if properly cultivated, would be of an excellent quality. In the same localities all the fruits of Southern Europe, the vegetables of the cold and temperate regions, as well as coffee, can be raised with success at an elevation of 1600 metres; but coffee is also cultivated here in regions lower than those pointed out by authorities on coffee planting and by planters; and on the Eastern coast, good coffee grows at an elevation of 400 metres, but shade is necessary for the trees and they do not live as long.

Not only are there great varieties of climates and elevations, but there is a possibility in many localities of raising products which would seem to necessitate sundry and even antagonistic requirements.

Rice of a superior class is produced in the Western portion of the Republic. Wheat, oats and barley are raised on the higher plains, and beans and corn as well as all vegetables are produced in all parts of the country, the better qualities being found in the colder regions. The essential necessities of life are easily raised and the production is more than is necessary; but there is a

certain scarcity of wheat, rice and other fruits, caused by the limited amount of labor, which is principally directed towards the cultivation of the coffee and sugar, which at present command a very high price abroad.

In certain latitudes of both shores, two crops of corn can be raised in less than one year. Sugar cane is raised in the lower countries and also at an elevation of 1000 metres, but in the latter it does not ripen as quickly.

There are abundant places where cocoa, cotton, tobacco and rubber are cultivated on a small scale. Rubber and other gums are to be found in virgin forests.

To a certain extent tallow and vegetable wax have been exported, gaining high estimation in foreign markets.

The fields and pastures for cattle are of considerable importance, and they will be more so when commercial facilities exist along the immediate coast.

The articles of exportation are: dye-woods, rubber, metals, a small amount of construction wood, sugar, hides, and principally coffee. — Last year Guatemala produced 678,000 cwts. of coffee.

Enterprises continue to increase, and, should there be a scarcity of coffee in the West, this would be overcome by the production of the North, which has a soil particularly adapted to coffee and labor.

Besides raising cattle, we also raise horses and sheep, and we have endeavored to improve the breeds in every manner by crossing them with imported stock.

The wool which is produced is used in the small industries of the country.

Attempts have been made to cultivate olives, but ineffectually.

Grapes have been cultivated, only on a small scale, in Salamá and Huehuetenango and in other high latitudes.

The raising of cattle, hogs and domestic fowl also forms one of the industries.

Guatemala is limited in extent compared with other states of the North and South, but there is, however sufficient land for a population much larger than that which exists at present.

The actual productions of a country should be in proportion to the amount of work performed and to its natural resources. This country's resources are in such abundance that they are capable of creating great wealth. The soil returns with great interest all which is intrusted to its care.

The seasons are regular and the farmer can depend upon the results of his crop, which cannot be said of other climes.

During the dry season, which is less than half of the year, near the coasts, the effects of the season are mitigated by an abundant dew; so much so that the trees of the forests never lose their foliage, neither does nature relinquish its active creative work.

The wealth of the country to-day is the result principally of agriculture, and in this branch there still remains an immense field for exploitation; there also exists a great reserve of prime matters of industry, such as mines, forests, salts, chemical and medicinal plants and a thousand others which are still open to the enterprise of a much larger population.

Between the production and the consumption, the debit and credit of the republic, there appears a balance in its favor, which is brought about by the exportation of coffee, and which would be still greater if greater attention was directed to the manufacture of articles of prime necessity which we partly import at the present time. From the benefits of exportation we realize an exchange which satisfies all our social demands.

Industry and Commerce.

The causes we have so often referred to, will explain the unalluring condition of the great industries of the country. There is only one cotton factory of importance: the manufacture of paper has met with but little success; crockery is manufactured in abundance, but not of such a quality as would allow it to compete with the better grades of foreign countries. Smelting and the construction of machinery are proving that satisfactory results may be obtained if steadily continued. Woolen and leather goods are yet of an inferior quality. A general tendency to improvement is, however, noticeable in all the various branches of industry, the factors of this improvement being the abundance of natural elements, and, moreover, the special aptitude and intelligence of the natives to adopt and carry out all the improvements made by other countries of far more territorial and political importance.

In the arts and trades of life, greater improvements are daily noticeable. Tradesmen, as a rule, are very skillful, and a great many articles manufactured in our work-shops, so far as taste and durability are concerned, are in no way inferior to those coming from abroad. There are some very good work-shops in the lines of carpentering, cabinet-making, silver-smithing, black-smithing, tailoring, shoe-making, watch-making, tin-smithing, and highly appreciated articles are made of other metals. Masonry, too, is very far advanced. Amongst the Ladinos and also amongst the Indians some remarkable works of ceramics are found, as also works in the art of colour-printing, in wood-carving and in stone. Carriages and vehicles of several kinds are manufactured in the country, and also tasty-silk

scarfs and wraps, straw hats, matting, bricks and tiles, tools and utensils of every description, all proving the skill of the natives. Alcohol, extracted from the sugar cane and several fruits, is manufactured. There are several printing establishments and book binderies.

The Government has established four schools of arts and trades in the principal cities, and is trying to found one in the capital of each department, well knowing that the seeds of knowledge will produce excellent results.

The trade of the interior is very active, especially in the central and western departments. Foreign trade is carried on principally with the United States, England, Germany and France, their products arriving at the southern ports of San José, Champerico and Ocós, and at the northern port of Livingston.

The imports, among others, are beer, wines and liquors, oils, petroleum, manufactured and leaf tobacco, preserves, chemical products, perfumery, paper and writing materials, books, glass, marble, instruments of arts and sciences, blank and fire arms, fine crockery, pianos, railroad materials, spices, machinery, electrical appliances, carriages, fancy goods, laces, silks, linen, wool and cotton goods and flour.

• The arrivals of steamships and sailing vessels in 1892 were as follows:

San José, 157 steamers and 14 sailing vessels:

Champerico, 151 " " 12 " "

Ocós, 55 " " 7 " "

The steamers imported 625,971 packages through said ports, and the sailing vessels, 123,486.

During the same year, 1892, 78 small steamers and 9 sailing vessels arrived at the port of Livingston, carrying 101,825 packages. All these vessels flew either the American, the English, or the German flags, the majority sailing under the American colors.

During the course of the last few years commerce has been developed to an extraordinary extent, and this is due to the growing wealth of the country and to the increase in the number of inhabitants, all leading a comfortable life.

Moreover: the taste, not only for useful articles in the way of subsistence and comfort, but also for those of recreation, art, science and luxury is rapidly increasing. In public as well as in private life, communication with the outside world is constantly on the increase, bringing as a natural consequence the inclinations and progress that are the distinctives of the age.

Means of Communication.

An extensive net-work of Telegraphic lines connects the most important ports, cities and towns of the country. To this net-work of telegraphic lines there corresponds a system of highways, yet incomplete, although the work has been pushed with great energy during the last few years.

The "Ferrocarril Central" is the best railroad ever built in Central America, and the best supplied with all kind of elements and resources. It crosses the coast at Escuintla, ascending the slope of the great volcanoes, and then it runs along the coast of the picturesque lake of Amatitlan, over a solid stone embankment.

Two great companies, the "Pacific Mail," American, and the "Kosmos," German, are the principal agents of trade and exchange on the Pacific Coast. The national Treasury has always subsidized the former and occasionally the latter with a view of encouraging exports, and so that correspondence and trade might be carried on with regularity.

The protection to the railroads has largely contributed to facilitate communication and to establish a more energetic current of life between Guatemala and other countries abroad.

Guatemala now takes an active part in all modern improvements and means of advancement; it has acquired a better knowledge of the outside world and is making itself known by rapid communications and by its press, its literature, and customs, means through which modern civilization bring together men and nations, animated by a common spirit and following common pursuits.

Guatemala for a long time was obliged to use the cable established at "La Libertad," a town of Salvador; but this was a cause of delay, to the detriment very often of trade and private interests, as the telegraphic line over which the messages were transmitted to the office was very long and exposed to interruptions. Both, on account of these drawbacks and wishing to obtain the inestimable advantage of possessing adequate means of our own, a telegraphic service has been organized at the port of San José, and at present this important improvement is now accomplished.

The facility of communication now existing with the interior is a valuable source of promoting the diffusion of knowledge and of raising the level of other sections of the country, which, on account of their isolation had remained stagnant heretofore. Guatemala, possessing so many means of production, and so many articles of prime necessity, will become a cheaper market with the increase of cultivation, and, the producer will find an additional stimulus for his energy in the safety of consumption.

Telegraphic lines now connect the Republic with the other Central American States and with the United Mexican States.

Political Institutions.

The country is now governed by the new political code sanctioned by the Constituent Assembly of 1879, and partly reformed in 1885. Individual rights and political liberty

are recognized and guaranteed by this new code in all their extent, and no barriers of any kind are placed to the free manifestations of conscience and thought. The public press is not subject to any previous censure, and no pecuniary deposit is required to publish any kind of newspaper, book, pamphlet or loose article, whatever. The exercise of the democratic principles consigned in the law is now taking a practical shape, and said principles are being embodied in the social habits, customs and manners of life. All the inhabitants, natives as well as foreigners, may acquire and transmit property, follow any trade, open any kind of establishment, and adopt any pursuit whatever, there being no difference between the former and the latter as to the enjoyment of civil rights.

As a result of the favorable changes in the habits of the people, all rights recognized by the law are now receiving a more practical application. Public authorities are chosen by universal suffrage. All native and naturalized Guatemaltecos of 21 years of age enjoy the right of suffrage. Instruction at the public schools is free, and their attendance is made obligatory: military service is likewise obligatory for all citizens, and exemption from it may only be obtained by paying a certain amount of money.

Foreigners must obey the general laws and the police regulations; but they are not obliged to pay any special imposts or forced loans, or are they subject to military service, or to accept public employments. There are no class privileges, no titles nor decorations of nobility, nor does the fact of possessing such titles granted by other countries, confer any preference before the law.

The Guatemaltecos cannot accept any political charge or employment from any foreign country without the consent of the Government of the Republic.

The electors, provided they do not belong to any ecclesiastical order, are eligible to the highest public offices.

Civil marriage is established in the country, and public registries of property, birth and deaths, and of the state of persons are kept by public functionaries.

Political Organization of the Republic.

The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Powers are the organs of the State to govern the Country.

The Legislative power is vested in a House or Assembly, renewed by halves, every two years. This Assembly appoints in each one of its sessions its own President, Vice-President and Secretaries. It meets on the 1st of March, and its sessions last two months, but they may be extended for an other thirty days. Congress may also be called to extra-sessions, whenever any business of urgent resolution should so require it.

The Executive is vested in a President, who is elected directly by the people: his term of office runs for six years, and he is not re-eligible for the next term. He is assisted by six Secretaries, who, in some cases have a consolidated responsibility. These Secretaries are in charge of the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Justice, Public Works, War, Treasury and Public Instruction.

The Judiciary is composed of a Chief Justice and a Supreme Court, three departments of appeals in the Capital, one in Quezaltenango, another in Jalapa, each one having its own Attorney General. There are four courts of the first instance in Guatemala, three in Quezaltenango, two in San Marcos, and one in each of the remaining nineteen departments. In each Municipality there is a Justice of the Peace.

The term of office of the Judges is four years. The Superior Judges are chosen by election, and in case of their

resignation, or of there being a vacancy for any cause whatsoever, their successors are appointed by the Assembly. The judges of the first instance and the justices of the peace are chosen by the Executive power, from a ternary proposed by the Chief Justice.

The Council of State is an auxiliary body. The Government may call for its advice in all matters of importance or questions affecting the country's interests. It is formed of nine members, five elected by the Assembly, the other four being appointed by the Executive.

The Assembly appoints a permanent commission which attends to all matters prescribed by the law, when the Assembly has closed its sessions.

The President has the right to veto any bill within ten days after its approval: but he must give the reasons therefore, and then the bill will only produce its legal effects, if it is approved by a two thirds vote of the Assembly.

Congress, before closing its annual sessions appoints two of its members, who, following the order of their nomination, shall assume the Executive power in case of death or inability of the President of the Republic to act.

Each municipal territory established by the laws has a council or corporation, which exercises administrative functions. This council is composed of members in such numbers as may correspond to the census of the territory.

For the fulfillment of the political, administrative, civil and military administration of the country, its territory has been divided into twenty-six departments. In each one of these, there is a Mayor, invested with all the various functions of the Executive power; also a Judge of the first Instance, and all the employés required for the discharge of the duties connected with these different branches.

The courts of Justice are free from the intervention of any strange power or functionary, whatsoever. There are

no special jurisdictions as to points of law or fact, for any class of society, except in matters concerning the army which are specified in the military code. Nevertheless, the consent of the Assembly is required for the impeachment of the Representatives and the other high functionaries mentioned in the law relating thereto. The President of the Republic has a right to reprieve and pardon, subject to the restrictions prescribed by law. There are two courts of the first instance, a court of appeal, and a court of error, (*casacion*).

Juries are only impaneled in suits where the press is concerned.

After the political movement of 1871, the old codes were altered, and substituted by others more in accordance with the requirement of modern times. Experience, and a careful examination of their diverse dispositions have brought about some changes afterwards.

The Code of procedure, and the penal, fiscal, military and commercial codes have recently been sanctioned and promulgated. In the civil code, amongst many other important reforms, we find the establishment of a public record of property and of the civil registry, systems now generally followed by all nations.

Although the codes have occasionally been changed, their practical application produced excellent results in the administration of public affairs, and also in maintaining due respect to all private right. In accordance with their requirements some organical laws have been passed, and others will shortly be approved.

Special rules and regulations have recently been passed as to the usage of public lands and forrestrics, their improvements, and as to the way of acquiring any of the sources of public wealth. Natives and foreigners alike, have a fullright to denounce and acquire public lands to a limited extent, which are sold at public auction to the highest bidder.

Public Education.

Education is one of the branches of improvement of the people at large, to which the Government of Guatemala has dedicated its special attention. In the Capital, as well as in Quezaltenango, the State has already established special schools of law, medicine and pharmacy, endowing each one with voluminous and select libraries. It has also founded a school for Engineers, a Polytechnic college for those following a military career, a Commercial school, an Academy of Fine Arts, a Normal school for young women aspiring to be teachers, also a school for young men, incorporated with the Central Institute; and, finally, a well organized Conservatory of Music.

There are several public institutes in which secondary or the higher grades of education are given gratuitously. There are two establishments of this kind for young girls in Guatemala and Quezaltenango and three for young men, besides one, in Chiquimula. All the establishments of the higher branches of knowledge, and also the special and high schools are liberally endowed with their respective corps of professors, tuition rooms, laboratories, materials and everything required to accomplish their ends and object. Professorship improves as it goes on acquiring more efficiency.

Primary tuition is given in schools of the first and secondary grades. In 1892 there were in the Republic 1284 schools for boys and girls; 25 new ones have been added, making in all 1309 schools, with a daily attendance of fifty thousand pupils, a figure not yet up to the mark expected by the Government. The negligence of parents in the Indian towns and their apathy to education have to be overcome by strenuous efforts.

The number of teachers is yet deficient, and this is to be attributed to the want of inclination in young people to embrace this career, as they can with greater facility earn their livelihood in other avocations of life.

The people contribute to the support of public education with a yearly amount of nearly one million and a half dollars.

In order to facilitate the education of the working classes, night schools have been organized in several cities, and also public libraries, which are endowed by private donations and by State appropriations.

In the schools of Arts and Trades, a general education is given, besides any special instruction required.

In the City of Guatemala, there is a fine national library, in which, besides a large amount of books, there are several valuable collections of documents and inedited works. In this library the public archives of the country are also kept.

Charitable Institutions.

Proper attention, well in keeping with the requirements of the time and the philanthropical ideas of the people is given to the Charitable institutions.

The Capital of the Republic has a general hospital, an insane asylum, a sanatorium, a hospital for epidemic diseases, an orphan asylum and a refuge for children. The military hospital, a remarkable institution of recent date, is situated outside of the city and is built in a well ventilated and picturesque valley. In Quezaltenango, la Antigua, Amatitlán, Escuintla, Chiquimula, Coban and other departments there are likewise hospitals, and the Government is contemplating the establishment of others in all or almost all the cities of the Republic.

Department of Public Safety.

The Police force has been established years ago in Guatemala, Quezaltenango, Chiquimula, la Antigua, Jalapa, Amatitlan, Totonicapan, and Retahuleu. It is also intended to establish a force of rural guards for the high-ways.

Public Works and Improvements.

The improvements and material progress lately carried out are remarkable. Besides the telegraphic lines, railroads, bridges, highways, municipal buildings and school-houses, educational institutes, and High and Special schools, there have been built hospitals, penitentiaries, buildings for the Departments' offices, important buildings for the commanders of ports at San José and Champerico, and others for the postal and telegraphic services.

The southern ports have good piers for loading and unloading, and are provided with steam machinery, and all the necessary appliances for the work and operations of the custom-houses.

The old palace of la Antigua has been reconstructed, and public-parks have been opened in the Capital and other cities. The theatre of Guatemala is a building that certainly corresponds to the culture of the city: in Quezaltenango another theatre is being built which will also correspond to the taste and social wants of the most populous and wealthy city of the West. The necessities of recreation and of having a place of ease and comfort for the public, has induced the Government to construe a park at the South end of the city of Guatemala, known as "La Reforma": it is being pushed with great activity. A hippodrome is to be built near this park, to alternate in the races, with the

hippodrome of Jocotenango in the North. In keeping with the progress of public works, we may mention the elegance which many private individuals are showing in the construction and ornamentation of their dwellings. Guatemala, and Quezaltenango, especially have been improved by the erection of solid, beautiful and ornamental buildings.

All the elements of social life have increased extraordinarily in Guatemala: a considerable number of carriages and tramways traversing the principal streets, impart great animation to the City, facilitating communications for business transactions and for social enjoyments. The Capital of the Republic is a beautiful city, with streets at right angles, grand squares, electrical lighting, pretty parks, numerous buildings, remarkable churches, and many other institutions proving its advanced culture.

Mail and Telegraphic Service.

All the towns are in frequent postal communication amongst themselves. The Government has entered into contracts with private companies, or has provided in a direct manner the means to extend private and commercial intercourse. Post-offices have been organized according to the modern systems, following the plans of the Postal Union.

In order to show the improvements that have been made in this branch alone and the development of enterprise, it will suffice to say that in 1885, more than one million four hundred and forty nine thousand, six hundred and thirty three (1,449,633) pieces of all kinds of national and foreign mail matter were circulated; and two millions nine hundred and ninety eight thousand, nine hundred and twenty four (2,998,924), in 1892.

The number of Post offices has been considerably increased, and both the interior and the foreign service have been improved.

In the telegraphic service we notice the same proportion of increase and a similar progress. In 1885, the telegrams transmitted amounted to three hundred and twenty one thousand, eight hundred and fifty four (321,854), and, in 1892, to six hundred and twenty three hundred, five hundred and five (623,505). The service both of the Post and of the Telegraph is of the very best and complete.

Up to the present all cablegrams had to be transmitted by the offices either at La Libertad, in the Republic of Salvador, or through Mexico. Hereafter the Republic will have its own telegraph offices, in the port of San José.

The postal service with foreign countries is carried on both oceans: on the Atlantic by the way of Livingston to New Orleans, and on the Pacific, through all the ports, by the merchant steamers. The mail as well as the telegraph, offer all the guarantees of safety that those services require.

Diplomatic and Consular Corps.

Guatemala has legations accredited to the United States of America, Mexico, France, England, Spain and Portugal. There are Consular Agents in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, England, Italy, Chile, Hayti, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Honduras, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Perú. There are also Consuls General in all of said nations, except Chile, Hayti and Ecuador. The countries having diplomatic representatives in Guatemala, are: Germany, United States of America, Spain, France, England, Italy, Mexico, and Belgium. Consular service: Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, England, Bolivia, Chile,

Denmark, Colombia, United States of America, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, the Argentine Republic, Venezuela, Switzerland, and Sweden-Norway.

Department of War.

The Secretary of War has undertaken some important reforms in the military organization. The service is general and compulsory, except for those, who, on account of some deficiency are exempt by law, or who pays a stipulated amount. It is done by drawings, and for the term of six months. Target-shooting is practiced by the regular troops as well as by the reserve. The drilling of the officers is performed in the military academies and on the drilling-grounds. Privates, besides their duties are obliged to attend to the schools established in their respective regiments. Sham-battles, with large bodies of troops have been successfully practiced.

The Polytechnic school has been reorganized, the pupils receiving very remarkable and careful military training there. Last year some military workshops were established in the Penitentiary of the Capital. The armament is in good condition and is of the modern type. A medical military corps has also been organized. And, although new buildings were constructed and other indispensable expenses were incurred, the military output of 1892 was less than that of 1891.

According to the present organization of the army, it is composed of 495 Commanding officers, 3263 Officers, and 53,903 men. The effective force on a peace standing amounts to say 3697 men, including officers and privates

Finances.

The Treasury derives its revenue from the following sources: the income on liquors; fiscal duties on imports and exports; stamped paper and revenue stamps; taxes on real estate; taxes on roads; exemption from military service; taxes on live stock, flour, salt, inheritances, sales and on donations of immovable property; fines and confiscations, sale of vacant lands, pawn shops, and the Mail and Telegraphic service.

The egress of expenses during the fiscal year from July 1st, 1892, to June 30th, 1893, amounted to \$9,086,000.82. The estimate was calculated on a somewhat smaller amount; but it does not comprise the rents destined to the construction of the Northern Railroad. The estimated official expenditures from July 1st, 1893, to June 3d, 1894, should sum up to \$9,086,000.82.

The public or national debt up to the 31st of December, 1892, amounted to \$17,115,284.41, in which sum are included the arrears for salaries of public officers, pending obligations and the floating debt; also the internal debt, ascending to \$6,195,600, and the foreign debt amounting to say \$4,480,000.

The Government has fulfilled all the engagements it has entered into to pay the interests of its debt, up to the 30th of June of this year. From the 31st of December, 1891, up to the same date, 1892, said debt was reduced by one million of dollars.

A Committee has been appointed for the service of the foreign debt: this Committee deals directly with the bondholders in London; the payment of interests and the drawings of the internal debt are made monthly.

Summary.

Guatemala is a region of commendable conditions under whatever aspect she may be considered: a rich soil in the lowlands, in the intermediate and also in the highlands, it offers a promising fertility, and the best results to labor. An industrious farmer may select any climate suitable to his inclinations, and almost any place where he chooses to exact from nature the repayment of his energy.

The cultivation of the fruits of the temperate zones, cereals principally, is carried on the high plateaus: The cultivation of the products of the torrid zone, on the lowlands and on the coast. The middle altitudes, as if combining in themselves all the vigour and strength of the others, often present all the fertility and productiveness of the whole.

Nature is such a powerful factor here that it always brings forth with interest that which is intrusted to her care. But the scantiness of population is a great obstacle in the way of production, as is also the facility by which great results are obtainable, by simply using the easiest means and the most primitive modes of cultivation, there being no stimulus proceeding either from want or competition; nevertheless; social capacity shows itself in a very forcible manner in every business it undertakes and in every work it puts its hands to.

The cultivation of coffee and the sugar-cane is carefully performed, as also that of cocoa and wheat. By the impulse and the perfecting tendencies of the workman, liberal arts are progressing. In order to present a respectable show in the statistics of civilized countries, Guatemala

is now taking a great interest in every branch of industry. Refinement in social manners, tastes and inclinations, a well noticeable spirit of hospitality, the modes of life, habits, dress and the adoption of every improvement in the general character and motives, of the people, place Guatemala within the pale of modern progress and modern exigencies.

The increase of social intercourse within the country is in keeping with the relations carried on with foreign countries by means of correspondence, the study of their customs and habits, and the exact knowledge of different events; books on all subjects are perused by students and all professional men, and the remarkable tendency to adopt all modern improvements is a fact well noticeable throughout all classes of society.

In Europe, and likewise in America, capital and labour are antagonistical to each other; in the old world the productive forces are now overwhelming the economical resources, and in America, production is far ahead of the wants and the number of the people; Guatemala, for this reason will undoubtedly be one of the countries that will most attract the attention of workmen and labourers when it becomes well known abroad.

We can not and will not promise to the foreign workman or laborer any great results, unless he works for them; neither shall we offer such novelistic changes of fortune as is proffered by other countries.

False and imaginary perspectives have too often been the cause of the disenchantment of all those who sought prosperity in the very fact of trading on American soil. But leaving aside all seductive promises and strictly adhering to what is true, we may promise to the honest and skilled labourer, unquestionable advantages not only for himself, but also for the people who receive him.

In latitudes where the sweat of their brow and all their sacrifices are almost useless, and where an unproductive soil and a dry atmosphere sterilize or diminish the value of their work, agriculturists well know what a blessing it would be to them to possess a soil returning with compound interest the seed intrusted to its care, regular seasons that never deceive, proportionate heat and humidity, and winds and rain all coming in due time. There, it is nature herself who demands a greater activity from man, presenting to him here, fertility, periodical rains and productive grounds easily workable; the tree is podded and sends forth sprouts with inexhaustible vigor, the water courses carry slime in their currents to replace losses and waste; and if, besides utility, the imagination should require grace and beauty, it can recreate itself in the paradisaical tableaux of the eternally green forests, in the woods always producing wild fruits and animated by all kinds of birds remarkable for the great beauty of their plumage and music.

There are rivers always shaded by large trees on their borders; lines of volcanoes, giant like, watching over the independence of the country.

Socially we never see those painful and desolating scenes of misery of other countries: begging is hardly known. There are no obstacles in the way of those who wish to climb to the pinnacle of social life, providing the aspirant carries along with him, his luggage of good faith, honesty of purpose, and persevering energy. Neither the highway nor the bye-passes present any dangers to travelers, nor do the political changes take those sombre aspects that foreigners are lead to believe they do, nor do the laws put any obstacles to the free manifestations of ideas, or any compulsion on matters of conscience.

The country at large presents great inducements to

the European agriculturist and tradesman, and immigration is the eager wish of the foreseeing statesman. Through all the enterprises of any importance, the Government has procured to form a current of immigration, which bringing with it, vigor and energy, might cooperate to the wealth of the Republic. The Atlantic Railroad is a medium to approximate Europe and America to Guatemala; it reduces the distance of the line now travelled in a lower latitude, by about four hundred leagues. Whilst a work of such vast importance in every sense, especially from an economical view, is being completed, other means are being employed to show the deep interest taken in immigration.

In August, 1891, when the contract of the Pacific steamers was entered into, between the Department of Fomento and Mr. J. H. Leverich, the special agent of the company, it was stipulated that the steamers would carry from the terminus of their line to Guatemala, the mechanics and agriculturists and all others wishing to immigrate to the Republic, up to the number of twenty-five, on each trip, and would only receive in payment as a maximum of their passage price, one-half of the usual second-class rate, provided they were engaged by the Government or its authorized agents, and even without such engagements, when their intention to remain in the Country was proved.

Land is obtainable at very reduced prices, and the demand for workmen in the country and in the workshops is large. The preservation of the nationality of origin, and the facilities to acquire property, constitute a great inducement, no less so than the full right to undertake any traffic, the freedom to start any industry or trade, without paying any special contribution; and the right to one's own religious belief and thought according to one's own ideas and habits, provided they do not conflict with the principles of

universal morality. All these are rightfully protected by the law.

The Country is developing new resources, within the limits of its forces: lands of different qualities, fibres of infinite classes, mineral veins, salines and woods, present the prime matter of lucrative industries all of which find a decided protection from the State. The refined tastes of the country promise on the other hand, a good reception; and its sense of justice, compensation for all work.

The climate and beauty of nature give additional attraction to life.

Guatemala belongs to the limited number of countries which can cover all their own wants, by working the admirable variety of her natural elements: its territory, not very large, although being almost a synopsis of all the zones and products of the world, allows the extension of the net of communications to bring into contact all the social forces to produce an active trade and a useful inter-communication. Order has been firmly established and has taken the consistency so much required by labor.

Guatemala has undoubtedly a right to be considered amongst the progressive countries of the world. It has now only to continue developing the immense resources at her command, to protect foreign immigration, and to continue fulfilling as heretofore her obligations, in order to advance and occupy a leading position among the Latin American Republics. The sound practical sense of the men now in charge of her destinies, is a guaranty that at no distant day she will be considered one of the foremost countries of America.

